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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 1, 1992

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June 1, 1992

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AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER. PREL. IZ  
SUBJECT: IRAQ AND TERRORISM

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT RISING TENSIONS IN THE REGION AND THE PROSPECT FOR FURTHER TERRORISM. WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT REPORTING YOU HAVE SEEN THAT IRAQ MAY BE RENEWING ITS TIES TO TERRORIST GROUPS. SUCH AS THE ANO AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER ANTI-ARAFAT GROUP. IRAQ ALSO MAY BE ENCOURAGING OTHER HARDLINE GROUPS AND FACTIONS TO UNDERTAKE NEW TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST

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ISRAELI AND RELATED TARGETS. SINCE THE MAY 30 SEABORNE ATTACK ON ISRAEL, WE HAVE APPROACHED IRAQ SEVERAL TIMES ON ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT OF ABU ABBAS WITHOUT RECEIVING A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE.

3. THESE SIGNS COME AMIDST OBJECTIONABLE RHETORIC AND BEHAVIOR IN OTHER AREAS. NONE OF WHICH APPEARS DESIGNED TO EASE REGIONAL TENSIONS. THE DANGERS OF A CYCLE OF ATTACK AND RETALIATION ARE CLEAR. WE WANT TO PUT IRAQ AND OTHERS ON NOTICE THAT ITS ACTIONS ARE BEING WATCHED CAREFULLY AND WILL CARRY CONSEQUENCES IN ITS RELATIONS WITH US AND THE WEST. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE ARE ACTIVELY REVIEWING IRAQ'S BEHAVIOR AND CONSIDERING WHETHER TO PUT IRAQ BACK ON THE TERRORISM LIST. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANT IRAQ TO KNOW THAT WE EXPECT IT TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PREVENT NEW TERRORIST OPERATIONS FROM BEING LAUNCHED BY GROUPS WITH WHICH IT HAS TIES.

4. AMBASSADOR SHOULD APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTER OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE USING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE SITUATION IN THE REGION HAS REACHED A DANGEROUS LEVEL OF TENSION. WE BELIEVE THAT RADICALS ARE SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO LAUNCH NEW TERRORIST ATTACKS IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER POLARIZE THE SITUATION.

-- THERE ARE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS AVAILABLE TO US THAT NEW TERRORIST OPERATIONS ARE UNDER PREPARATION IN THE REGION. WE BELIEVE SOME OF THOSE ACTIONS ARE BEING PREPARED BY GROUPS WITH TIES TO IRAQ.

-- IN RECENT DAYS, WE HAVE RAISED HERE AND IN

WASHINGTON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ABU ABBAS' PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT IN IRAQ. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR

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THAT IN OUR VIEW THERE WAS NO DISCERNIBLE MILITARY TARGET FOR THAT GROUP'S MAY 30 SEABORNE ATTACK ON ISRAEL; IT COULD ONLY HAVE RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT NON-COMBATANT CASUALTIES.

-- SINCE THAT ATTACK, ABU ABBAS HAS BRAGGED THAT FURTHER OPERATIONS ARE IN THE OFFING. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IS CORRECT. AND WE WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ANY STATE THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IS IMPLICATED IN THEM AND MUST SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. INDEED, WITHOUT STATE SUPPORT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE MAY 30 ATTACK COULD HAVE COME AS CLOSE AS IT DID TO SUCCEEDING.

-- WE HAVE ALSO RAISED WITH YOU DISTURBING REPORTS THAT IRAQI OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE NOTORIOUS ABU NIDAL ORGANIZATION. WE UNDERSTAND FROM YOU THAT IT IS IRAQI POLICY NOT TO ALLOW ABU NIDAL TO COME TO IRAQ. IT IS TROUBLING, THEREFORE, THAT WE CONTINUE TO HEAR REPORTS THAT THE ANO HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO OPEN A NEW OFFICE IN IRAQ. AS YOU WELL KNOW, IN OUR VIEW THE ANO IS AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN EXISTENCE. IT WAS ONLY AFTER YOUR GOVERNMENT EXPELLED THE ANO THAT WE WERE ABLE TO REMOVE IRAQ FROM OUR LIST OF STATES THAT SUPPORT TERRORISM.

-- IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO GROUPS, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED WITH THE ACTIVITY OF A NUMBER OF OTHER, PALESTINIAN GROUPS AND FACTIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE HAVE REPRESENTATIVES IN IRAQ AND WITH WHICH YOU HAVE INFLUENCE.

-- WE WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE SUSPENSION OF THE US-PLO DIALOGUE SHOULD IN NO WAY BE SEEN AS OPENING THE

DOOR FOR NEW TERRORISM BY ANY OF THESE GROUPS. IRAQ SHOULD UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT THE US WILL RESPOND TO

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ANY NEW TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ITS INTERESTS AND TO ANY  
TERRORISM WHICH FURTHER HEIGHTENS TENSIONS IN THE REGION.

NEW INSTANCES OF TERRORISM BY ANY PALESTINIAN  
GROUP WILL NOT BE IN IRAQ'S INTERESTS. THE DANGERS OF  
ESCALATION ARE CLEAR. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE CONSIDERING  
WHETHER TO PLACE IRAQ ON OUR LIST OF STATES WHO SUPPORT  
TERRORISM. SHOULD NEW TERRORIST ACTS BE LAUNCHED BY  
GROUPS SUPPORTED BY IRAQ, THE EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL  
RELATIONS AND IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST WILL  
INEVITABLY BE SERIOUS. WE URGE YOU TO USE YOUR  
INFLUENCE TO PREVENT ANY NEW TERRORIST INCIDENTS AND ANY  
FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF TENSIONS IN THE REGION. WE WILL  
DO THE SAME.

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